THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Initial permission granted to December, 1983 was for a period of one year subject to certain terms and conditions. Request for extending the period of occupation was considered and authorised upto 24-2-85 to enable M/s. Escorts to make arrangements to vacate the area. Notice for vacating the site by 15th May, 1986 was issued on 8-4-86. Programme for shifting dry dock after completion of 1986 monsoon was submitted by M/s. Escorts and considering steps initiated and assurance given by M/s. Escorts they were allowed to continue. The floating dry dock has since been moved out of NSPT water limits on 23rd October, 1986 and shifted to temporary site allotted in BPT waters.

(c) Continuation of floating dry dock in temporary location would have affected capital dredging.

**Medicine for AIDS Victims**

174. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of AIDS cases detected so far during the last three months in India and the number of persons who died of this disease; and

(b) what efforts are being made to develop an effective medicine for AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) During August, September and October (upto 15th October 1986) no cases of AIDS have been detected. Before the end of July 1986 only 2 cases of AIDS were reported. One succumbed to the disease on 9th June, 1986 and the second succumbed to the disease on 8th August, 1986.

(b) Ever since identification of HIV several anti-viral drugs including suramin, HDA 23, Ribavirin Azidothymidine and foscarnet are under clinical trial for treatment of AIDS diseases. Some of these drugs are viricidal, but so far none of the cases of AIDS have been cured of the disease by use of any of these drugs. Azidothymidine shows a promising results in AIDS cases with Pneumocystis cerinii pneumonia.

Drugs for correction of the immune deficiency seen in AIDS patients are also being evaluated. These include bone marrow transplantation, use of immuno-stimulators like interleukin 2, gamma interferon and thymic hormones and passive immunisation with hyper immuno gamma globolin. None of these have also been effective in curing the immune deficiency. However it is expected that the effective drugs to combat the disease would become available through global research activity.

**Cultural festival in Delhi**

175. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to celebrate a cultural festival in Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the amount allocated for the same;

(c) what is the number of cultural festivals of India that have so far been celebrated in foreign countries; and

(d) what was the allocation made and the expenses incurred for conducting those festivals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. A National Cultural Festival will be held in Delhi ni November, 1986.